

5 February 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR Garrison Commander, United States Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, Fort Gordon, Georgia 30905-5020

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Fort Gordon Officer and Enlisted Retiree Councils

1. The Fort Gordon Officer and Enlisted Retiree Councils met in joint session at Fort Gordon on 5 February 2004. The purpose of this meeting was to address subjects of interest to Army retirees in the Fort Gordon area of responsibility and to determine if there were matters that should be reported to the Garrison Commander, Fort Gordon, or through him to the Commanding General, Fort Gordon, or through her to the Chief of Staff, Army Retiree Council, and Department of the Army, for consideration.

2. The following Officer and Enlisted Council members were present:

COL (Ret) Everett Greenwood	SGM (Ret) Richard Downs, Chairman
COL (Ret) William Mannel	CSM (Ret) James Huggins
COL (Ret) Maurice Rice	CSM (Ret) James Hussey
COL (Ret) John Ridick	ISG (Ret) Theola B. Melton
LTC (Ret) Jay Waldman	PSG (Ret) Raymond Sumner
CPT (Ret) William J. Barnard	SFC (Ret) Jack Baker
CW4 (Ret) Boni Buoni	SFC (Ret) Alfred S. Zamora
Mrs. Nancy Moore	Mrs. Betty Dodd

3. The following Officer and Enlisted Council members were absent:

MAJ (Ret) John Anchor	SFC (Ret) James O. McCormick
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4. SGM (Ret) Downs called the meeting to order at 0930 and welcomed all council members.

5. SGM (Ret) Downs announced that the first order of business was for the Retiree Council to elect a new council co-chair to replace COL (Ret) Reich who resigned on 18 November 2003 and to also hold an election to fill the vacant officer council seat.

6. SFC (Ret) Zamora nominated COL (Ret) Greenwood to become the new officer co-chair. COL (Ret) Rice placed a second vote for COL (Ret) Greenwood and suggested that the vote for co-chair be closed. All council members present agreed, and COL (Ret) Greenwood was unanimously elected as Retiree Council co-chair.

7. COL (Ret) Greenwood accepted the nomination and thanked all council members for their vote. At this time, voting ballots were given to all council members to fill the vacant officer seat. The Retirement Services Officer collected ballots, tallied the results, and handed the results to COL (Ret) Greenwood who then announced the new council member as COL (Ret) Webster E. Francis, Jr.

8. SGM (Ret) Downs urged all council members to assist in finding more candidates for the vacant enlisted council members seat, and that anyone wishing to become a council member needs to see the Retirement Services Officer to obtain and fill out a Biographical Sketch Worksheet and Statement. SGM (Ret) Downs stated that the council would vote for a new member during the next Retiree Council meeting.

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9. COL (Ret) Greenwood asked council member SFC (Ret) Baker to give an update on the Health Care Consumer Council meeting, which was held at the Eisenhower Army Medical Center (EAMC) on 18 November 2003.

10. SFC (Ret) Baker reported the following:

a. General Schoomaker opened the meeting by discussing precision services for active duty personnel, family members, and retirees. He emphasized the importance of check-ups to detect illnesses in advance; especially in those areas that are vulnerable at certain stages of life.

b. LTC Clabaugh discussed the use of a Closed Medical Record System in the interim future. Medical records would be sent to the patient's next appointment in advance by a courier, patients would not handle their records. An electronic automated system will be implemented in the future to encode medical records on an identification type card or tag with the same data stored at Eisenhower Army Medical Center.

c. LTC Goode, Chief of Pharmaceutical discussed better ways to fill and refill prescriptions. For refills, it is best to call in the refill in advance or access their web page. SFC (Ret) Baker raised the topic of the long lines at the PX pharmacy and suggested an intercom number announcement system so people could wait in a more seated atmosphere and have coffee. The idea was well received and Mr. Terry Smith, Deputy Garrison Commander, said he would get with AAFES. Additionally, patients who have an adverse reaction to medication should return the remaining medication to the pharmacy for a partial reimbursement for insurance coverage. The medicine will then be disposed of for safety precautions.

d. MAJ Hunter discussed The Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) events and better ways to make things more convenient for retirees, such as consolidation of some events to a centralized location, better directions for satellite locations, increased advanced advertising, and other avenues for success. SFC (Ret) Baker talked to Kathleen Haskell, EAMC's Marketing Director, about the need for trying to coordinate flu shots at the same time as the RAD. The Council was in agreement with the suggestions.

e. COL Oswald discussed a new system that is coming soon called a PET Scanner and Interventional Radiology. This equipment is the state of the art technology to reduce the need for surgical procedures.

f. The next EMAC meeting will currently be held on 18 February 2004 and all parties are again invited.

11. COL (Ret) Greenwood asked the council members if there were any other issues of concern to be addressed.

12. Several council members brought up an Identification Card issue, which involves problems scanning family member ID cards at the Eisenhower Army Medical Center. Sandra Huffman, the Fort Gordon Adjutant General, brought in Mr. Bob Wolfgram, Chief, Personnel Service Branch to address this issue. Mr. Wolfgram mentioned that for the past six months, military hospitals have been experiencing periodic scanning problems that result in the sponsor's Social Security number to appear instead of the Social Security number of the family member. Mr. Wolfgram further mentioned that this is not a problem with the ID card itself, but rather with the hospital scanning equipment. Both DEERS and the hospital are aware of the problem and until the scanner problem is fixed, the Eisenhower Army

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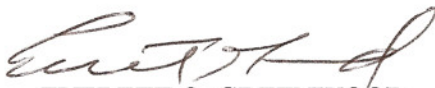
Medical Center Patient Administration Division has instructed their personnel to manually type in the family member's Social Security number when this happens.

13. SFC (Ret) Baker requested that the Garrison Commander consider re-opening South Range Road gate on Fort Gordon. SFC (Ret) Baker mentioned that the closure of South Range Road gate has a definite negative impact on promoting quality of life for Soldiers, veterans, and military retirees. SFC (Ret) Baker, works for the Georgia Department of Labor and has found that disabled retirees and veterans in the Central Savannah River Area with limited incomes hunt and fish on the Fort Gordon reservation for sustenance. He further stated that the closing of the South Range Road Gate has added an additional 18-20 miles that retirees now have to travel to hunt on the installation, which has put another financial burden on these people.

14. Several council members discussed the continuing problem that it still takes a long time, sometimes up to three hours or more, to obtain initial prescription medicines at the Eisenhower Army Medical Center and Post Exchange Pharmacies. This is a problem which was addressed to the Eisenhower Army Medical Center Generals staff seven or eight months ago, and one in which recommendations were made to possibly ask for more volunteers or hire more personnel to help speed up the process. COL (Ret) Greenwood mentioned that Mr. Terence Smith, Deputy Garrison Commander, was aware of the issues concerning the Post Exchange Pharmacy and that he was in the process of getting with the AFEES manager to come up with solutions.

15. COL (Ret) Greenwood addressed the Retiree Council thanking them for their continued presence on the Council and their commitment of ensuring a higher level of quality of life for all Soldiers, veterans, and the military retiree community here at Fort Gordon and surrounding communities. COL Greenwood encouraged the Retiree Council members to seriously consider attending events, such as, the Fort Gordon Quarterly Awards Ceremony, and Retirement Ceremonies, Town Hall meetings. Retiree presence will show support and concern with the events on Fort Gordon.

16. COL (Ret) Greenwood adjourned the meeting at 1130 on 5 February 2004.



EVERETT O. GREENWOOD
COL, USA (Retired)
Chairman
Officer Retiree Council



RICHARD H. DOWNS
SGM, USA (Retired)
Chairman
Enlisted Retiree Council